

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an analytical tool, the method comprising a reagent member forming process for providing a base plate with a reagent member that includes a stack of at least two reagent layers separated by an intervening water-soluble separation layer, each of the reagent layers containing a reagent that reacts with a specific component contained in sample liquid and is different from a reagent contained in other reagent layer,

wherein each of the reagent layers is formed by performing a plurality of steps of applying material liquid containing the reagent alternately with a plurality of steps of drying the applied material liquid, and

wherein the reagent layers separated by the intervening water-soluble separation layer are aligned with each other in a direction perpendicular to the base plate.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the steps of applying and drying the material liquid are performed with use of material liquid containing a same reagent as the reagent contained in each of the reagent layers.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the steps of applying and drying the material liquid are performed 2-200 times.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid applied to form each of the reagent layers contains 0.1-60 wt% of the reagent.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1,

wherein the base plate comprises a reagent holding portion formed as a recess including a bottom surface and a side surface, and

wherein the reagent member is formed in contact with the bottom surface.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the material liquid applied to an area of the bottom surface of the recess is spaced from the side surface thereof by a constant distance.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 6, wherein the distance between the side surface of the recess and the area thereof to which the material liquid is applied is no smaller than $0.1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the reagent holding portion has a depth of 50-200 μm .

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the recess has a volume of 0.05-5 μL .

10. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid is applied to form each of the reagent layers with use of an inkjet-type dispenser.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 10, wherein the dispenser is designed to dispense a droplet of 10-2000 pL,

wherein the dispenser is used for applying the material liquid to form each of the reagent layers in a manner such that a plurality of droplets are attached to an application target portion.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein an amount of the material liquid applied in each step of applying the material liquid is 1-200 nL.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid applied to form each of the reagent layers is dried by supplying heat energy.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 13, wherein the heat energy is supplied by utilizing radiant heat applied from above the applied material liquid.

15. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 13, wherein the supply of heat energy is attained by holding a heat source in contact with a rear surface of the base plate.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1,

wherein a thin layer having a thickness of 0.1-5.0 μm is formed by performing one each of the applying step and the drying step of the material liquid, and

wherein the reagent layer formed by the plurality of steps of applying and drying of the material liquid has a thickness of 1.0-50.0 μm , which is greater than the thickness of the reagent layer formed by one each of the applying and drying steps, upon completion of the reagent member forming process.

17-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the intervening water-soluble separation layer is made of carboxymethylcellulose.